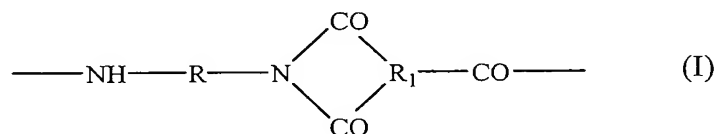


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

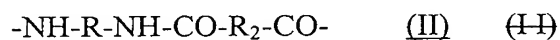
Please amend claims 43, 45-50, 52-75 and 79 as follows:

Claims 1-42 (Cancelled).

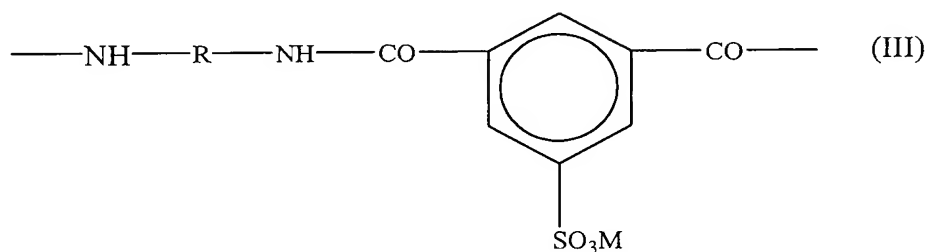
Claim 43 (Currently Amended) A mascara composition comprising rigid, substantially rectilinear polymeric fibers in a physiologically acceptable medium, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of non-aromatic polyamides, aromatic polyimide-amides comprising a repeating unit of formula (I):



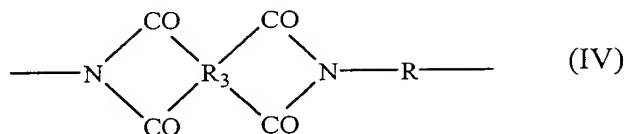
optionally, also, a repeating unit of formula (II):



optionally, also, a repeating unit of formula (III):



optionally, also, a repeating unit of formula (IV):



in which R represents a divalent aromatic group, R_2 represents a divalent aromatic group, R_3 represents a tetravalent aromatic group, R_1 represents a trivalent aromatic group and M represents an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal, and mixtures thereof, and wherein at least 50%, in numerical terms, of the fibers are such that the angle formed between the tangent to the central longitudinal axis of the fiber at one of the ends of the fiber and the straight line connecting said end to the point on the central longitudinal axis of the fiber corresponding to half the length of the fiber, is less than or equal to 15° , and the angle formed between the tangent to the central longitudinal axis of the fiber at a point halfway along the fiber and the straight line connecting one of the ends to the point on the central longitudinal axis of the fiber corresponding to half the length of the fiber, is less than or equal to 15° , for the same length of fiber ranging from ~~0.8~~ 0.8 mm to 5 mm.

Claim 44 (Cancelled).

Claim 45 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim ~~[[44]]~~ 43, in which the angles are less than or equal to 10° .

Claim 46 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which the fibers are from 1 mm to 3 mm long.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which the cross section of the fibers is within a circle of diameter (D) ranging from 2 nm to 500 μ m.

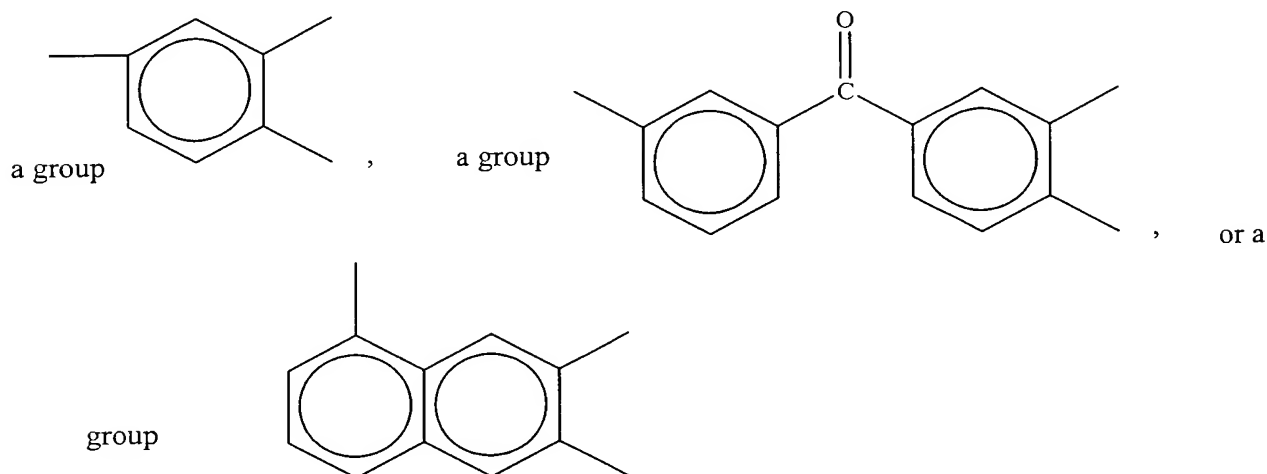
Claim 48 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, in which the fibers have a length L and a diameter D of the circle in which the cross section of the fiber is inscribed, such that the ratio L/D is in the range from 3.5 to 2,500.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, in which the fibers have a yarn count in the range from 0.15 denier to 30 denier.

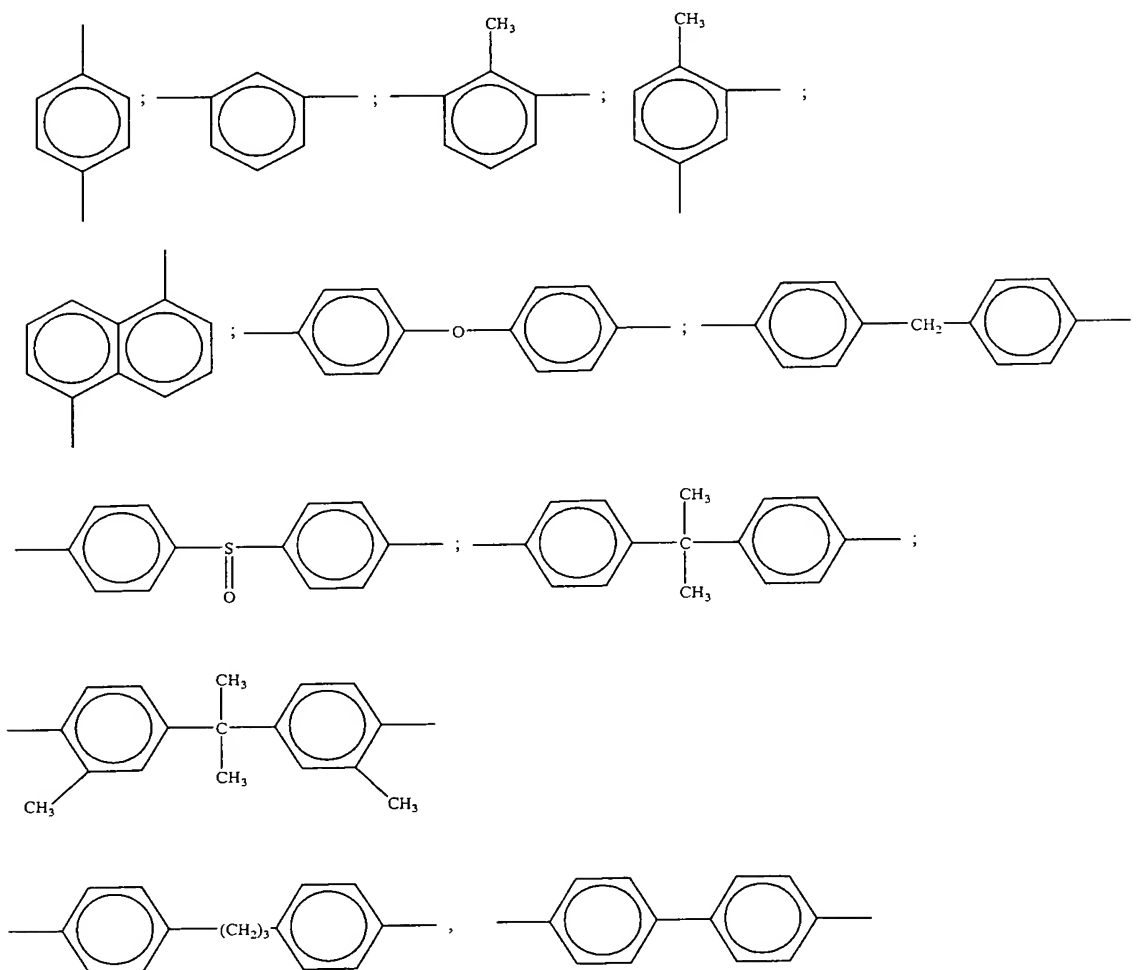
Claim 50 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, in which the fibers are present in a content of from 0.01% to 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 51 (Cancelled).

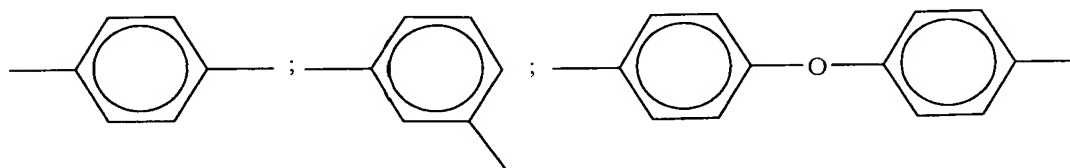
Claim 52 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which R₁ represents:



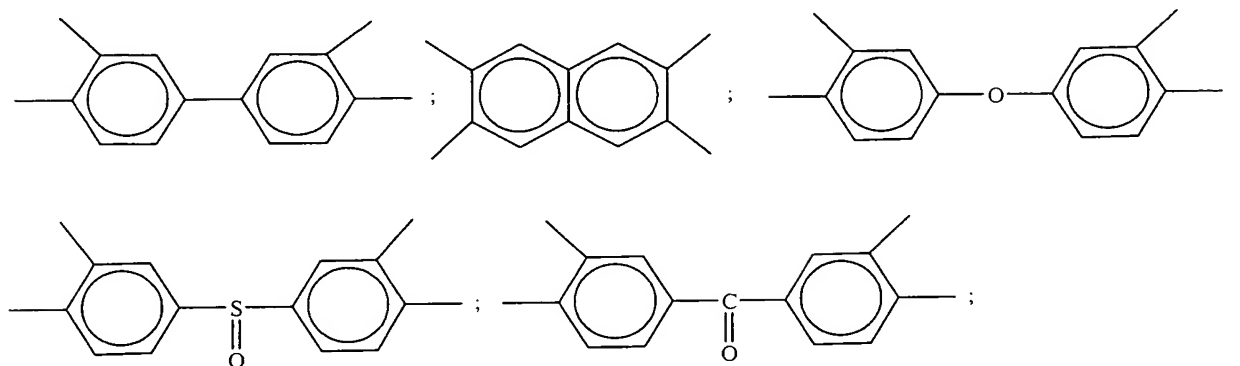
Claim 53 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which R is chosen from groups:



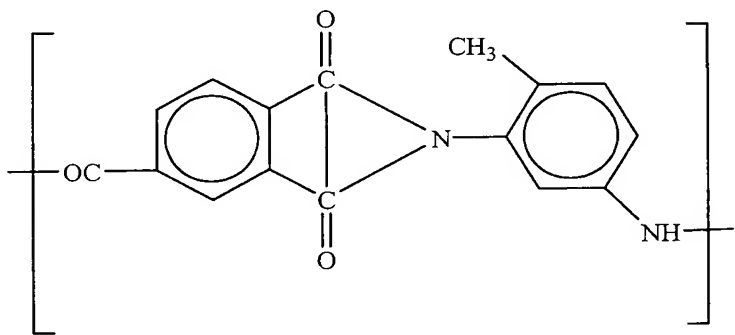
Claim 54 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which R2 is a group of formula:



Claim 55 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which R_3 is selected from the group consisting of: ~~of~~:



Claim 56 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which the polyimide-amide is obtained by polymerization of tolylene diisocyanate and of trimellitic anhydride, and comprises repeating units of formula:



Claim 57 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which the fibers are surface-treated and/or coated.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, in which an active agent and/or pigment and/or dye is incorporated into the bulk of the polymer forming the fibers.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, in which the physiologically acceptable medium is a hydrophilic or lipophilic cosmetic medium.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, further comprising water or a mixture of water and of hydrophilic organic solvent(s).

Claim 61 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 60, comprising a hydrophilic organic solvent(s) selected from the group consisting of monoalcohols containing from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, polyols containing from 2 to 8 carbon atoms, C₃-C₄ ketones, C₂-C₄ aldehydes, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 60, in which the water or the mixture of water and of hydrophilic organic solvent(s) is present in a content ranging from 0.1% to 90% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, which further comprises a fatty phase.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 43, which is an anhydrous composition.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 63, in which the fatty phase comprises a fatty substance selected from the group consisting of oils, organic solvents, waxes and pasty fatty substances, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 63, in which the fatty phase comprises at least one volatile oil.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 66, in which the volatile oil is a hydrocarbon-based oil comprising from 8 to 16 carbon atoms.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 66, in which the volatile oil is present in a content ranging from 0.1% to 98% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, further comprising a film-forming polymer.

Claim 70 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 69, in which the film-forming polymer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl polymers, polyurethanes, polyesters, polyamides, polyureas, cellulose-based polymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 71 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 69, in which the film-forming polymer is present in a polymer solids content ranging from 0.1% to 60% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, further comprising a dyestuff.

Claim 73 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 72, in which the dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of pigments, nacles, liposoluble dyes, water-soluble dyes, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 74 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to Claim 72, in which the dyestuff is present in a content ranging from 0.01% to 30% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 75 (Currently Amended) The mascara composition according to claim 43, further comprising a cosmetic additive selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, fillers, preserving agents, fragrances, neutralizers, thickeners, surfactants, cosmetic active agents, dermatological active agents, plasticizers, coalescers, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 76-78 (Cancelled).

Claim 79 (Currently Amended) A method of lengthening an eyelash, comprising applying the mascara composition of Claim 43 to the eyelash in an amount sufficient to lengthen the eyelash.

Claim 80 (Cancelled).

Claim 81 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said method provides a lengthening of the eyelashes that is exactly in line with them or to give the eyelashes an even lengthening effect.